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Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 L-03 ACDA-12 DOE-15
SOE-02 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08
NRC-05 DODE-00 SS-15 SP-02 CEQ-01 PM-05 SAS-02
/130 R

DRAFTED BY OES/NET/NEP:RDEMING:JW
APPROVED BY OES/NET:LVNOSENZO
OES/NET/EIC:DHOYLE
L/N:RBETTAUER
AF/W:RHART
ACDA:KMACMANUS
DOE:RSLAWSON (INFO)
----------013766 091633Z /47
R 091452Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ACCRA
INFO AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 200916

US/IAEA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, MNUC, TECH, PARM

SUBJECT: NUCLEAR COOPERATION WITH GHANA

1. ON AUGUST 2, GHANAIAN ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION DELEGATION, LED BY CHAIRMAN F. K. ALLOTEY, AND ACCOMPANIED BY DR. LEONARD OF INSTITUTE FOR RESOURCES MANAGEMENT, INC. (NUCLEAR CONSULTANTS AND AGENTS FOR PULSTAR REACTOR) MET WITH DEPARTMENT, DOE, AND ACDA REPRESENTATIVES TO DISCUSS GHANAIAN PLANS TO PURCHASE 5 MGW-PULSTAR NUCLEAR RESEARCH REACTORS AND POSSIBILITY OF US ASSISTANCE TO GHANAIAN
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NUCLEAR PROGRAM.

2. ON SUPPLY OF REACTOR, DEPARTMENT EXPLAINED THAT TRANSFER WOULD REQUIRE EITHER THE CONCLUSION OF A BILATERAL AGREEMENT FOR PEACEFUL NUCLEAR COOPERATION BETWEEN THE US AND GHANA OR A TRILATERAL PROJECT AND SUPPLY ARRANGEMENT INVOLVING THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA). WE INDI-

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CATED OUR PREFERENCE FOR A BILATERAL AGREEMENT WHICH GHANAIAN DELEGATION WELCOMED. DELEGATION WAS GIVEN COPY OF US MODEL AGREEMENT FOR PEACEFUL NUCLEAR COOPERATION (COPY OF CABLE TRANSMITTING MODEL AGREEMENT TO SELECTED POSTS BEING POUCHED TO EMBASSY) WHICH IT SAID IT WOULD STUDY AND WOULD DIRECT COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS TO THE DEPARTMENT THROUGH EMBASSY IN ACCRA. WE STRESSED THAT MODEL WAS ILLUSTRATIVE ONLY AND SUBJECT TO FURTHER REFINEMENT.

3. ALLOTEY EXPLAINED THAT GHANA DESIRED RESEARCH REACTOR TO PROVIDE TRAINING WITH VIEW TOWARD A NUCLEAR POWER PROGRAM IN THIRTY OR FORTY YEARS AND TO PRODUCE ISOTOPES FOR MEDICAL AND AGRICULTURAL USE, HOPEFULLY THE CENTER WOULD SERVE AS A REGIONAL ONE, SERVING THE NEEDS OF OTHER WEST AFRICAN STATES AS WELL AS IN GHANA. ALLOTEY SAID THAT GHANA HOPED TO HAVE REACTOR IN OPERATION WITHIN THREE YEARS. DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVE SAID THAT IN VIEW OF GHANA'S ADHERENCE TO THE NPT AND ITS CONCLUSION OF A SAFEGUARDS ARRANGEMENT WITH THE IAEA, AND THE FACT THAT THE REACTOR IN QUESTION WOULD USE LOW ENRICHED (6 PERCENT U-235) URANIUM, WE FORESAW NO POLICY PROBLEMS WITH THE PROPOSED PROJECT.

4. ALLOTEY INQUIRED AT LENGTH ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF US ASSISTANCE, IN TERMS OF FUEL FOR THE REACTOR AND TRAINING, FOR THE GHANAIAN NUCLEAR PROGRAM. WE EXPLAINED THAT CONFIDENTIAL

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VIRTUALLY ALL US ASSISTANCE TO PEACEFUL NUCLEAR PROGRAMS WAS CHANNELED THROUGH THE IAEA, WITH PREFERENCE GIVEN TO NPT PARTIES AND ENCOURAGED GHANA TO APPLY TO THE AGENCY AT AN EARLY DATE FOR THESE PROGRAMS WHICH INCLUDED BOTH MATERIAL AND TRAINING. WITH RESPECT TO MATERIAL, WE NOTED THAT THE US GENERALLY MADE AVAILABLE TO THE IAEA ON AN ANNUAL BASIS 50,000 DOLLARS FOR "GIFTS" OF FUEL FOR RESEARCH REACTORS AND EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT GHANA WOULD BE A STRONG CANDIDATE TO RECEIVE ALL OR PART OF THIS ALLOCATION FOR EITHER 1978 OR 1979, DEPENDING UPON THE NUMBER OF OTHER COUNTRIES REQUESTING THIS MATERIAL. WE ALSO CALLED ATTENTION TO THE US SSOD INITIATIVE TO CONTRIBUTE 1 MILLION DOLLARS EACH YEAR FOR FIVE YEARS TO THE IAEA FOR A SIMILAR PROGRAM BUT CAUTIONED THAT THESE FUNDS HAD NOT YET BEEN APPROVED BY CONGRESS AND WOULD NOT IN ANY CASE BE AVAILABLE UNTIL FY 1980. ALLOTEY EXPRESSED PREFERENCE FOR DIRECT US BILATERAL ASSISTANCE BECAUSE OF "BUREAUCRATIC PROBLEMS" WITH THE IAEA BUT UNDERSTOOD US POLICY OF DEALING THROUGH THE AGENCY.

5. NEXT STEP WILL BE GHANAIAN RESPONSE TO US MODEL AGREEMENT. IF GOG HAS NO MAJOR SUBSTANTIVE PROBLEMS WITH

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MODEL AGREEMENT, WE EXPECT THAT NEGOTIATION CAN BE COMPLETED BY CABLE WITH EMBASSY GIVEN AUTHORITY TO INITIAL DRAFT. AGREEMENT WILL THEN GO TO THE PRESIDENT FOR HIS APPROVAL, BE FORMALLY SIGNED, AND SENT TO CONGRESS WHERE IT MUST LIE FOR THIRTY DAYS OF CONTINUOUS SESSION BEFORE IT CAN COME INTO EFFECT.

6. AFTER APPROPRIATE PERIOD FOR GOG CONSIDERATION OF MODEL, EMBASSY MAY WISH TO QUERY ALLOTEY ABOUT REACTION.
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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